ORIGINAL STORY: Fummy

ART: Yuna Kagesaki

CHAPTER 4

The Witch's House

The Diary of Ellen

The Witch's House

The Diary of Ellen

Chapter 4

ZAA (WHOOSH)
IT'S ...
...SIM-PLE.
TON (TAP)

REMEMBER WHEN YOU FED ME? THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY THIS HOUSE EXISTS.
YOU FED ME YOUR PARENTS' SOULS, SO I GRANTED YOU MAGIC.
THIS IS THE SAME.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE WAS ANO-THER WAY?
...AND YOU'LL BE GIVEN THE MAGIC TO CURE YOURSELF.
FEED IT ENOUGH PEOPLE ...

THE NEXT DAY
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET WHATEVER YOU WANT.
BE-CAUSE ...
...YOU ARE A WITCH.
GIIII (CREAK)
KON (KNOCK)
KON
KON
WHOA, ELLEN.
YOU LOOK OKAY AGAIN.

IT SURPRISED ME, IS ALL.
BUT I GUESS IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.
BUT Y'SEE, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TURNED INTO A MONSTER, ELLEN.
SORRY 'BOUT YESTERDAY.
HOW I RAN AWAY LIKE THAT.
"MONSTER."
ZUGUN (ANG)
THAT SO, HUH?
KNEW THAT WAS TOO WEIRD TO BE REAL.
I'M A DUMMY, HUH.
HOW SILLY.
I JUST TRIPPED AND GOT COVERED IN MUD.
WHO RUNS AWAY FROM SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
AH HA HA HA.
HEE HEE.

GO ON INTO THAT ROOM.
I'LL GET SOME SWEETS FOR US.
OKAY.
HUH?
BATAN (SLAM)
HEY ...
...ELLEN. THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE.
GACHARI (CLICK)
AND IT GOT ALL DARK ...

STOP JOKING AROUND!
EH. WHAT? ...?
GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA
TON (THUD)
トン
ZURU (SLIDE)
ズル
ELLEN! WHY'DYA LOCK ME IN!?
WHY? I WON-DER.
MY FIRST EVER FRIEND.
I ACTUALLY LIKED YOU.

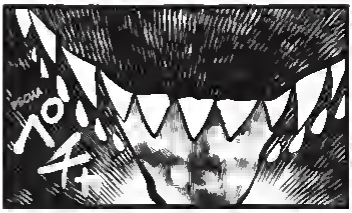
CAN I EAT HIM?
YOU WANT TO?
YES.
GO AHEAD.

ZUN (THUD)
EIKU (SHOT)
PARA
PARA (PATTER)

KI (CREAK)
キィ…

KACHARI (CLICK)
カチリ…

PECHA (SPLATTER)
ペチャ…
PECHA
ペチャ

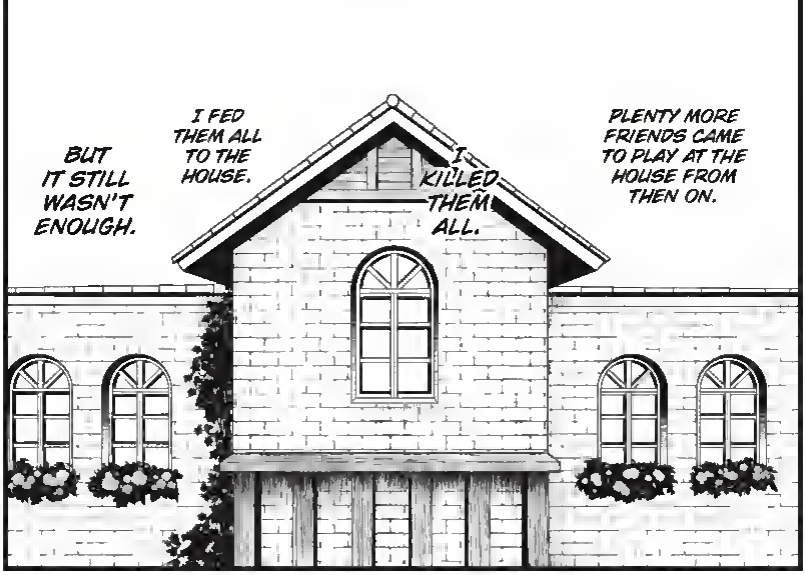

PECHA
ペチャ!!

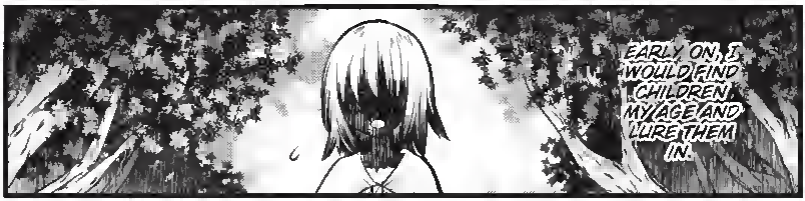
TASTY.
TASTY.

I REAL-IZED THEN ...
PACHI
PACHI LOAD
... THAT I COULD NEVER RUN AWAY FROM THIS THING ...
PACHI

THERE W S NO GOING BACK. NO WAY TO, EVEN.
AND ABOUT THE BIRTH OF ITS NEW WITCH.
ABOUT RECEIVING FRESH BLOOD.
I COULD TELL HOW DELIGHTED THE HOUSE WAS ABOUT EVERYTHING.
...BUT ALSO THAT I HAD NO INTEN- TION OF RUN- NING.
PACHI
110
千

WELCOME, ELLEN.
MY WITCH.


BUT IT STILL WASN'T ENOUGH.
I FED THEM ALL TO THE HOUSE.
I KILLED THEM ALL.
PLENTY MORE FRIENDS CAME TO PLAY AT THE HOUSE FROM THEN ON.


EARLY ON, I WOULD FIND CHILDREN MY AGE AND LURE THEM IN.

MOST CHILDREN IN THAT DAY AND AGE WERE ALWAYS HUNGRY.
THEY WERE ALSO...
...INNOCENT.

...AND MY OWN INVITING SMILE THAT FOOLED THEM INTO ENTERING.

IT WAS THE SWEET SCENT OF TREATS...

EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO WAY THEY WOULD EVER BE SO LUCKY.
THEY WANTED TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...WITH GOOD FORTUNE.
ALWAYS HOPING TO BE BLESSED...
ALL EAGER TO SEE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE.
...IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.
...WITH EASE...
IT KILLED MY NEW FRIENDS...
THE HOUSE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS.
AND REACH OUT WITH AN INVITING HAND.
..."COME ON IN."
JUST HAD TO SAY...
I NEVER DID ANYTHING.

I FELT NO SUCH THINGS.
GUILT?
BECAUSE THIS PLACE...
...WAS THE WITCH'S HOUSE.
BUILT SO THAT DEMONS COULD DEVOUR HUMANS.
BECAUSE I WANTED TO CURE MY DIS-EASE.
BECAUSE I WANTED A BODY THAT COULD BE LOVED.
BASA (FLAP)

THOSE HUMAN SOULS WERE JUST CURRENCY.
THE HOUSE WOULD COMPENSATE ME FOR EVERY PERSON I FED IT.
SOME OF IT...
...CAME IN THE FORM OF MEDICINE TO SLOW THE PROGRESSION OF MY DISEASE.
THE REST...
...WAS AN OFFERING TO THE DEMONS IN THE HOPES THEY WOULD GRANT MY WISH.
HEYA.
JUST LEAVE THE MEDICINE AND GO.
OOH, SCARY.
NOT A BIT OF CHARM.
OFFERING? MORE LIKE A TRADE.

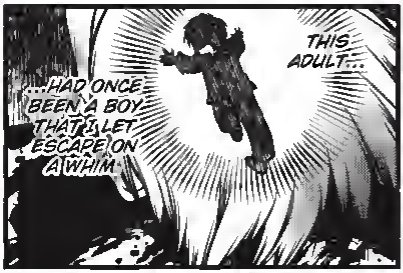
DO YOU DISLIKE THAT ONE?
I DO.
ALWAYS SO NOISY.
UNTIL NEXT TIME.
TSK.
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO GO MAKING HER MAD ON PURPOSE, YOU KNOW.
HEY.
YOU FINE WITH HER LIKE THAT?
SURE, SURE. ALWAYS A PLEASURE.
POI (TOSS)
DEMONS THAT DON'T HAVE BODIES OF THEIR OWN POSSESS ANIMAL CORPSES TO GET AROUND, APPARENTLY.
THE BLACK CAT DOESN'T HAVE A NAME.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL IT.
THE CROW DEMON.

YOU LISTENING?
.....
.....
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYONE BUT YOU, ELLEN.
NOPE.
SO YOU DON'T KNOW?
HMM.
DOES THAT CROW HAVE A WITCH TOO?
I WONDER. MAYBE THE CROW DOES HAVE A WITCH OF ITS OWN.
THE TIES THAT BIND THEM.
WITCHES. DEMONS.
IF SO, MAYBE THERE ARE OTHER WITCHES OUT THERE, LIVING THE WAY I DO.
.....

!
THE BLACK CAT'S MAGIC...
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE IT'S HIDING SOMETHING?
...IT'S ALL SO WARPED...
MAGIC TO CONTROL THEIR BODIES.
MAGIC TO CONFUSE PEOPLE WITH ILLUSIONS.
MAGIC TO PEER INTO THEIR HEARTS.
SURE IS. THE TYPE TO RELY ON OTHERS.
OH YEAH?
IT MAKES THEM TASTE BETTER.
PLUS WHAT?
YUP.
SO DO YOUR BEST, NOW.
I JUST LIKE THAT SORT OF THING, IS ALL.
HOW TO PUT THIS...
PLUS ...
SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAGIC LIKE THIS?
YOU ONLY GOTTA BREAK THEIR BODIES TO EAT THEIR SOULS, RIGHT?

I NO LONGER LURED PEOPLE TO THE HOUSE UNDER THE GUISE OF FRIENDSHIP.
IT JUST WAS NOT EFFICIENT ENOUGH.
I FELT AS THOUGH...
...EVERY HUMAN THAT DIED CAUSED MORE ROSES TO BLOOM IN THE GARDEN.
MAYBE THOSE RED FLOWERS LITERALLY SPRUNG FROM THE FRESH BLOOD.
I WOULD WANDER THE HOUSE AT WILL, COMPLETELY UNIMPEDED.
BUT I HAD NO REASON TO ACTUALLY SMILE.
SO HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS?
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH YET.

ONE DAY, I PEERED INTO THE MEMORIES OF A MAN I KILLED.


THIS ADULT...
...HAD ONCE BEEN A BOY THAT I LET ESCAPE ON A WHIM.

ENOUGH TIME PASSED...
...THAT A BOY GREW INTO A MAN?

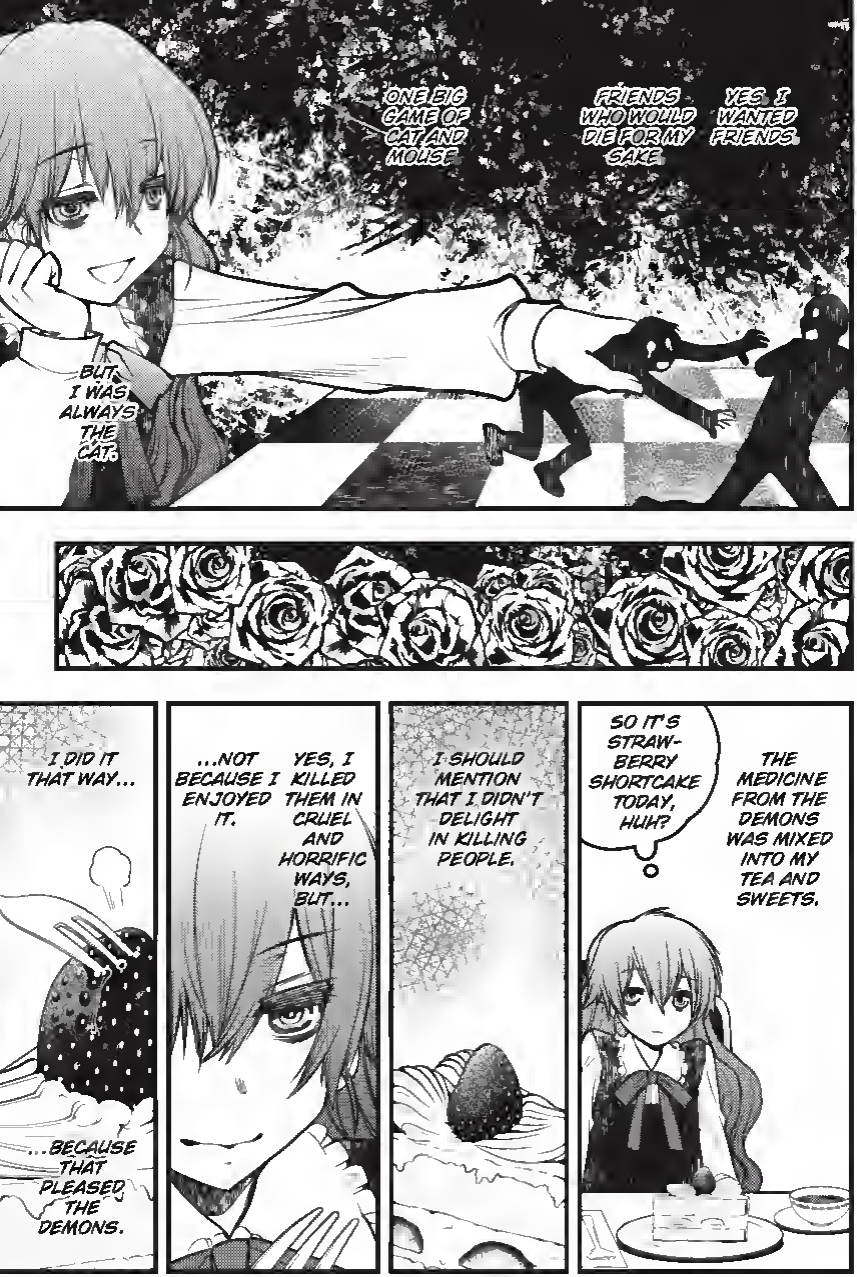
YET, MY BODY REMAINED THAT OF MY SEVEN YEAR-OLD SELF.

AND THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN WOULD WILT AND FALL.
THE FOREST SCENERY WOULD CHANGE WITH THE SEASONS.
THE DAYS AND NIGHTS PASSED BY.
SLOWLY BUT SURELY, TIME FLOWED ON.

SHA (FWIP)
PA (POP)
PARARA (FWISH)
MAYBE I'LL START A DIARY?
SO THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE FOREVER.
KURU (SPIN)
SHA
KURU
OH.
LOVERS MEETING IN SECRET.
CHILDREN HOPING TO PLAY.
ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE CAME INTO THE FOREST.
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO WRITE IT?
ADULTS HUNTING AND GATHERING.
KURU
KURU

PERHAPS I WAS GETTING A REPUTATION.
MEN INVESTIGATING THE FOREST ITSELF.
PARENTS SEARCHING FOR THEIR LOST CHILDREN.
AND ...
YOU ...
AHH...
GAH ...
ACK ...
SOME CALLED ME A WITCH.
GOH SNIFF
YOU DAMNED WITCH.

DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT ON PURPOSE?
ON PURPOSE?
HOW YOU ...
...SOMETIMES ALLOW THEM TO ESCAPE THE HOUSE.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT'LL ONLY HELP SPREAD MORE RUMORS.
RIGHT.
MAYBE THAT'S TRUE.
WHEN A PAIR OF SIBLINGS OR LOVERS WOULD WANDER INTO MY TRAP...
...I'D SOMETIMES ONLY CONSUME ONE OF THEM.
...LETTING THE OTHER MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.
MAYBE I DID WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW OF MY EXISTENCE.


BUT, I WAS ALWAYS THE CAT.
ONE BIG GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE.
FRIENDS WHO WOULD DIE FOR MY SAKE.
YES. I WANTED FRIENDS.
I DID IT THAT WAY...
...BECAUSE THAT PLEASED THE DEMONS.
...NOT BECAUSE I ENJOYED IT.
YES, I KILLED THEM IN CRUEL AND HORRIFIC WAYS, BUT...
I SHOULD MENTION THAT I DIDN'T DELIGHT IN KILLING PEOPLE.
SO IT'S STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE TODAY, HUH?
THE MEDICINE FROM THE DEMONS WAS MIXED INTO MY TEA AND SWEETS.

HELP ME.
NOOOO.
I CAN'T DIE HERE. NOT LIKE THIS.
WHICH IS WHY I KILLED THEM THAT WAY.
APPARENTLY, SOULS ARE TASTIER WHEN A PERSON DIES IN A STATE OF AGONY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE MADE A HOBBY OF CHOPPING PEOPLE UP.
BECAUSE THEY WERE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR MY MEDICINE.
AROUND THAT TIME, WE WERE MAKING A POINT OF COLLECTING PEOPLE'S HANDS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I ENJOY KILLING PEOPLE.

IT'S THE SAME WAY WITH ME.
THEY DON'T KILL BECAUSE THEY LIKE TO.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SLAUGHTER PIGS FOR EATING.
THINK ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
HMM.
I WONDER.
WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE?

FOR SURE.
SOMEONE WHO'LL END UP READING THIS DIARY.

CAN I READ IT? CAN I?
INNN-TERES-TING.
WELL, NOT ME. THE HOUSE IS.
YES.
YOU'RE WRIT-ING A DIARY?
OF COURSE, IT'D BE A LIE TO CLAIM THAT I DON'T ENJOY THE HOUSE'S APPRECIATION.
...THE WAY THE BODY REACTS.
THERE'S NO RESISTING...
NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT THAT, THOUGH.

HEY. WHY'RE YOU SMILING...
...BLACK CAT?
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE WITCH'S HOUSE CHAPTER 6...!

The Witch's House
The Diary of Ellen

CHAPTER 4

ORIGINAL STORY: Fummy

ART: Yuna Kagesaki

TRANSLATION: CALEB COOK
LETTERING: ROCHELLE GANCIO

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

The Witch's House: The Diary of Ellen Chapter 4
©2017 Fummy, Yuna Kagesaki. First published in Japan in 2017 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo

English translation © 2017 by Yen Press, LLC

Yen Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

Visit us at yenpress.com
facebook.com/yenpress
twitter.com/yenpress
yenpress.tumblr.com
instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press eBook Edition: September 2017

Yen Press is an imprint of Yen Press, LLC
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

ISBN: 978-0-316-41536-1